

Subject	Discussion of ABAG/MTC “FOCUS” Project
<b>Summary of Issues</b>	Joint Policy Committee Director, Ted Droettboom, will present the status of the Focusing Our Vision (now “FOCUS”) project sponsored by the ABAG/MTC Joint Policy Committee. A call for “Priority Development Area” (PDA) submittals was released to local jurisdictions on April 19, 2007. An application workshop was held on May 25 <sup>th</sup> in Oakland. Submittals are due to ABAG/MTC by June 29, 2007.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Planning Committee receive the JPC Director’s report.
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Funding incentives for designated PDAs have yet to be determined. JPC staff has suggested that \$174 million in Proposition 1C funds for housing within the Bay Area region could be used as an incentive. Another possible incentive would link to Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), through \$100 million in Proposition 84 funds. Other potential incentives are being discussed in the context of the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan Update.
<b>Options</b>	n/a
<b>Attachments (See PC Packet, dated 6/6/07, for attachment)</b>	A. FOCUS Application Guidelines, April 19, 2007
<b>Changes from Committee</b>	<i>Report accepted.</i>

## Background

In the spring of 2006, the Joint Policy Committee (comprised of representatives from MTC, ABAG, BAAQMD, and BCDC) commenced a multi-agency regional planning program called *Focusing Our Vision* (now simply called *FOCUS*). *FOCUS* builds upon a series of recent Bay Area regional planning efforts, in particular:

- *The Smart Growth Strategy / Regional Livability Footprint Project* and its “Network of Neighborhoods” regional vision (in Contra Costa, this effort was called “Shaping Our Future”);
- *The Smart Growth Preamble and Policies* adopted jointly by four regional agencies in 2002;
- The Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) and Housing Incentive Program (HIP) initiatives;
- The smart-growth-policy-based *Projections 2003, 2005, and 2007*;
- The Transportation and Land-Use Platform in the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan, *Transportation 2030*;
- The Resolution 3434 Transit-Oriented Development Policy.

A series of 8 regional workshops have been held to provide background and receive questions regarding the FOCUS effort. At present, FOCUS has reached a critical juncture, where local jurisdictions are being asked to initially designate PDAs by June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The attached Application Guidelines provide an overview of the process. Local jurisdictions, CMAs, and transit agencies are eligible to submit a PDA. The deadline for

submittal of resolutions of support for a local jurisdiction's designation of a PDA within its jurisdictional boundaries has been extended to September 7, 2007.

Eligible PDAs should meet the following basic criteria:

- Be within an existing community (infill development);
- Be close to existing transit service; and
- Have an existing plan in place to create housing within the designated area, or, at a minimum, have a vision or initiative to create such a plan.

Applications will be evaluated by a committee comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing various constituencies from through the Bay Area. Although specific evaluation criteria are yet to be established, ABAG staff has stated that three key considerations are expected to be included: economy, equity, and the environment. Other, more specific criterion, such as "health of the built environment," may be added pursuant to direction from the JPC.

The JPC staff's Director, Ted Droettboom will present an overview of the FOCUS effort, and provide an update on the status of potential PDA designation submittals within Contra Costa and the Bay Area.